

Message Text

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16

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 NIC-01 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 SSC-01 /119 W

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R 101030Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8280

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 1163

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, PFOR, EGEN, BU

SUBJECT: GOB LEADERSHIP CHANGES

REF: SOFIA 1131

1. SUMMARY. FOLLOWING THE JULY 3 BCP CHANGES REPORTED REFTEL THE BULGARIAN STATE COUNCIL ISSUED A DECREE JULY 8 ANNOUNCING FURTHER CHANGES IN GOB MINISTRIES. MAJOR SHAKE-UPS OCCURRED IN MINISTRY OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRY AND FIELD OF LABOR INCLUDING TRADE UNIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING CC PLENUM OF BCP HELD JULY 3, STATE COUNCIL ISSUED A DECREE JULY 8 EFFECTING A NUMBER OF CHANGES IN THE TOP LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT. MISHO MISHEV, WHO WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN, CENTRAL COUNCIL, BULGARIAN TRADE UNIONS SEVERAL DAYS AGO, WAS RELIEVED OF DUTIES AS MINISTER LABOR AND SOCIAL WELFARE BY KIRIL ZAREV, PREVIOUSLY PRESIDENT OF BULGARIAN NATIONAL BANK. REPLACING ZAREV IS VESELIN NIKIFOROV, FORMERLY FIRST DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, CONFIDENTIAL

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STATE PLANNING COMMITTEE. MINISTRY OF INTERNAL TRADE

GAINED A NEW FIRST DEPUTY MINISTER (ANGEL CHAUSHEV) AND A DEPUTY MINISTER (ANGEL GEORGIEV FIKLIN). AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, THE MINISTER OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRY WAS REPLACED.

3. MISHEV, A CC OF BCP MEMBER AND A PARTY MEMBER SINCE 1931, IS A FORMER LIEUTENANT GENERAL IN THE BULGARIAN ARMY. REPORTEDLY FORCED TO RESIGN HIS POST AS CHIEF, POLITICAL DIRECTORATE, NATIONAL ARMY IN 1962 BECAUSE OF "SCANDALOUS AFFAIRS WITH WOMEN" HE HAS HELD POSITIONS IN LABOR RELATED AREAS SINCE THE TIME AND BECAME MINISTER OF

LABOR AND SOCIAL WELFARE IN 1968. MISHEV IS REPORTEDLY THE BROTHER-IN-LAW OF TODOR ZHIVKOV AND CONSIDERED INFLUENTIAL. HE REPLACED KOSTADIN GYAUROV (WHO WAS EARLIER ALSO DROPPED FROM HIS POSITIONS AS CANDIDATE MEMBER OF POLITBURO AND MEMBER OF STATE COUNCIL). IN HIS NEW POSITION MISHEV AMONG OTHER THINGS WILL BE CHARGED WITH RESPONSIBILITY OF INCREASING LABOR PRODUCTIVITY, CURRENTLY CONSIDERED ONE OF THE WEAKEST ELEMENTS IN THE ECONOMY.

4. KIRIL ZAREV, CANDIDATE MEMBER OF CC OF BCP AND THE NEW MINISTER OF LABOR AND SOCIAL WELFARE, WAS PRESIDENT OF THE BULGARIAN NATIONAL BANK SINCE 1969. IS CONSIDERED A VERY COMPETENT BANKER BUT HAS NO KNOWN PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE IN LABOR MATTERS. HIS REPLACEMENT AT BULGARIAN NATIONAL BANK IS VESELIN NIKIFOROV, FIRST DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE PLANNING COMMITTEE SINCE 1971. NIKIFOROV HAS AN EXTENSIVE ECONOMIC BACKGROUND AND IS ALSO A CANDIDATE MEMBER OF CC OF BCP.

5. THE MINISTRY CHEMICAL INDUSTRY EXPERIENCED FURTHER SHAKEUPS FOLLOWING REPLACEMENT OF FORMER MINISTER KHRISTO PANAYOTOV BY GEORGI PANKOV ALSO CANDIDATE MEMBER OF CC OF BCP (SEE REFTEL). DEPUTY MINISTER GOSHO DZHAMBOV WAS TRANSFERRED TO MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AS DEPUTY MINISTER, AND DEPUTY MINISTER KHRISTO KHRISTOV WAS "REPRIMANDED" FOR HIS POOR CONTROL OF STATE ECONOMIC ENTERPRISE "HEAVY CHEMICAL INDUSTRY". ITS GENERAL DIRECTOR, BORIS NIKOLOV CHAKALOV, HAS BEEN RELIEVED OF

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HIS DUTIES FOR "MISDISTRIBUTING THE QUOTAS AND INDICES OF 1974 PLAN AMONG BRANCHES" OF ENTERPRISE, AND ALL OFFICIALS OF "HEAVY CHEMICAL INDUSTRY" ARE BEING HELD STRICTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS SHORTCOMINGS. IT HAS LONG BEEN KNOWN THAT THE BULGARIAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRY WAS EXPERIENCING SERIOUS PROBLEMS DURING ITS RECENT RAPID EXPANSION, AND SOME SPECULATION AROSE AS TO THOSE PROBLEMS DURING CEAUSESCU RECENT VISIT TO THE DEVNYA CHEMICAL COMPLEX.

THESE RECENT ACTIONS, HOWEVER, WERE FIRST CLEAR EVIDENCE OF SERIOUSNESS OF PROBLEMS.

6. IN EARLIER ACTIONS NATIONAL ASSEMBLY UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED REMOVAL OF GYAUROV AS MEMBER OF STATE COUNCIL AND REPLACED HIM WITH PROFESSOR YAROSLAV RADEV, CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL ON LEGISLATURE AT STATE COUNCIL AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION. RADEV IS A MEMBER OF CC OF BCP AND PROFESSOR OF LAW. THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ALSO OFFICIALLY REMOVED FORMER POLITBURO CANDIDATE MEMBER VENELIN KOTSEV FROM HIS POSITION AS DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (SEE REFTEL).
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